

News



New Jersey
Office of the Attorney General

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY

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For Immediate Release:

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Racing Commission Proposes Rules to Establish Blood Gas Testing Program

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULES

Date of Proposal: July 11, 2007

Proposal Number: PRN 2007-240

Proposal Description: The proposed rules -- N.J.A.C. 13:70-14A.14, 14A.15 and 14A.16 -- are for the purpose of establishing a blood gas testing program for the thoroughbred horse racing industry. The New Jersey Racing Commission has created a similar program for the harness racing industry under N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.3A, 23.3B and 23.3C. Scientific evidence associated with the administration of alkalinizing agents (milkshakes) to thoroughbreds suggests that the relatively short exercise duration in most thoroughbred races preempts alkalinizing agents from acting, due to the inability of lactic acid to build up in muscle over short distances. However, it has been reported from many racing jurisdictions that thoroughbred horses have been "milkshaked" anyway in an attempt to delay the onset of fatigue and improve performance. Under the proposed rules, the Racing Commission would test for the level of total carbon dioxide present in the blood sample taken from a horse utilizing a clinical auto analyzer instrument. The goal is to ensure fair thoroughbred horse races and avoid Potential harm to horses that can occur when alkalinizing agents mix with other substances, fluid loss and hot weather to create acid-base imbalances. The practice of administering alkalinizing agents via nasogastric intubation (tubing) is also potentially dangerous to horses.

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The proposed rules appear in the July 16, 2007 edition of the New Jersey Register.

Summary of Proposal: A detailed summary of the proposed rules is posted on the New Jersey Racing Commission Web site at:

www.njpublicsafety.org/racing/proposed.html

Public Comment: Public comment on the proposed rules will be accepted until September 14, 2007. Please direct all comments to:

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